Resurrection Talk –

Miracle of the resurrection.

17 miracles = ancestor that saved someone.

The miracle of our being ok in the end….the car……

The artist, Frank Bramley, had painted a humble cottage facing a windswept sea. Two women, the mother and the wife of an absent fisherman, had watched and waited the night through for his return. Now the night had passed, and the realization had set in that he had been lost at sea and would not return. Kneeling at the side of her mother-in-law, her head buried in the lap of the older woman, the young wife wept in despair. The spent candle on the window ledge told of the fruitless vigil.

I sensed the young woman’s heartache; I felt her grief. The hauntingly vivid inscription which the artist gave to his work told the tragic story. It read, *A Hopeless Dawn.*

Oh, how the young woman longed for the comfort, even the reality, of Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Requiem”:

*Home is the sailor, home from sea,*

*And the hunter home from the hill.*[1](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote1-09285_000_034)

Among all the facts of mortality, none is so certain as its end. Death comes to all; it is our “universal heritage; it may claim its victim[s] in infancy or youth, [it may visit] in the period of life’s prime, or its summons may be deferred until the snows of age have gathered upon the … head; it may befall as the result of accident or disease, … or … through natural causes; but come it must.”[2](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote2-09285_000_034) It inevitably represents a painful loss of association and, particularly in the young, a crushing blow to dreams unrealized, ambitions unfulfilled, and hopes vanquished.

What mortal being, faced with the loss of a loved one or, indeed, standing himself or herself on the threshold of infinity, has not pondered what lies beyond the veil which separates the seen from the unseen?

Centuries ago the man Job—so long blessed with every material gift, only to find himself sorely afflicted by all that can befall a human being—sat with his companions and uttered the timeless, ageless question, “If a man die, shall he live again?”[3](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote3-09285_000_034) Job spoke what every other living man or woman has pondered.

This glorious Easter morning I’d like to consider Job’s question—“If a man die, shall he live again?”—and provide the answer which comes not only from thoughtful consideration but also from the revealed word of God. I begin with the essentials.

If there is a design in this world in which we live, there must be a Designer. Who can behold the many wonders of the universe without believing that there is a design for all mankind? Who can doubt that there is a Designer?

In the book of Genesis we learn that the Grand Designer created the heaven and the earth: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”

Last of all, He created man in His own image—male and female—with dominion over all other living things.[4](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote4-09285_000_034)

Man alone received intelligence—a brain, a mind, and a soul. Man alone, with these attributes, had the capacity for faith and hope, for inspiration and ambition.

Who could persuasively argue that man—the noblest work of the Great Designer, with dominion over all living things, with a brain and a will, with a mind and a soul, with intelligence and divinity—should come to an end when the spirit forsakes its earthly temple?

To understand the meaning of death, we must appreciate the purpose of life. The dim light of belief must yield to the noonday sun of revelation, by which we know that we lived before our birth into mortality. In our premortal state, we were doubtless among the sons and daughters of God who shouted for joy because of the opportunity to come to this challenging yet necessary mortal existence.[5](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote5-09285_000_034) We knew that our purpose was to gain a physical body, to overcome trials, and to prove that we would keep the commandments of God. Our Father knew that because of the nature of mortality, we would be tempted, would sin, and would fall short. So that we might have every chance of success, He provided a Savior, who would suffer and die for us. Not only would He atone for our sins, but as a part of that Atonement, He would also overcome the physical death to which we would be subject because of the Fall of Adam.

Thus, more than 2,000 years ago, [Christ](http://jesuschrist.lds.org/), our Savior, was born to mortal life in a stable in Bethlehem. The long-foretold Messiah had come.

Jesus did many wonderful things during his lifetime…..And then the mortal mission of the Savior of the world drew to its close. A last supper with His Apostles took place in an upper room. Ahead lay Gethsemane and Calvary’s cross.

No mere mortal can conceive the full import of what Christ did for us in Gethsemane. He Himself later described the experience: “[The] suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit.”[8](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote8-09285_000_034)

Following the agony of Gethsemane, now drained of strength, He was seized by rough, crude hands and taken before Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod. He was accused and cursed. Vicious blows further weakened His pain-racked body. Blood ran down His face as a cruel crown fashioned of sharp thorns was forced onto His head, piercing His brow. And then once again He was taken to Pilate, who gave in to the cries of the angry mob: “Crucify him, crucify him.”[9](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote9-09285_000_034)

He was scourged with a whip into whose multiple leather strands sharp metals and bones were woven. Rising from the cruelty of the scourge, with stumbling steps He carried His own cross until He could go no farther and another shouldered the burden for Him.

Finally, on a hill called Calvary, while helpless followers looked on, His wounded body was nailed to a cross. Mercilessly He was mocked and cursed and derided. And yet He cried out, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”[10](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote10-09285_000_034)

The agonizing hours passed as His life ebbed. From His parched lips came the words, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”[11](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote11-09285_000_034)

As the serenity and solace of a merciful death freed Him from the sorrows of mortality, He returned to the presence of His Father.

At the last moment, the Master could have turned back. But He did not. He passed beneath all things that He might save all things. His lifeless body was hurriedly but gently placed in a borrowed tomb.

No words in Christendom mean more to me than those spoken by the angel to the weeping Mary Magdalene and the other Mary when, on the first day of the week, they approached the tomb to care for the body of their Lord. Spoke the angel:

“Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen.”[12](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote12-09285_000_034)

Our Savior lived again. The most glorious, comforting, and reassuring of all events of human history had taken place—the victory over death. The pain and agony of Gethsemane and Calvary had been wiped away. The salvation of mankind had been secured. The Fall of Adam had been reclaimed.

The empty tomb that first Easter morning was the answer to Job’s question, “If a man die, shall he live again?” To all within the sound of my voice, I declare, If a man die, he shall live again. We know, for we have the light of revealed truth.

“For since by man came death, by man came also the [resurrection](http://lds.org/ensign/2000/05/resurrection?lang=eng) of the dead.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”[13](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote13-09285_000_034)

I have read—and I believe—the testimonies of those who experienced the grief of Christ’s Crucifixion and the joy of His Resurrection. I have read—and I believe—the testimonies of those in the New World who were visited by the same risen Lord.

I believe the testimony of one who, in this dispensation, spoke with the Father and the Son in a grove now called sacred and who gave his life, sealing that testimony with his blood. Declared he:

“And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

“For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father.”[14](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote14-09285_000_034)

The darkness of death can always be dispelled by the light of revealed truth. “I am the resurrection, and the life,” spoke the Master.[15](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote15-09285_000_034) “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.”[16](http://www.lds.org/liahona/2010/05/he-is-risen?lang=eng&format=conference#footnote16-09285_000_034)